The SAGINAW·AFRO HERALD

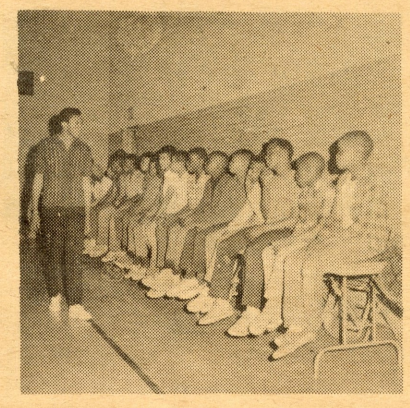
"TO INFORM, INVOLVE, AND UNITE" 10¢ PER COPY

VOL. 1 NO. 1 AUGUST 11, 1967 111 SO. THIRD ST. SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

AT LAST, A VOICE !!!

"A Message To The Grass Roots"

BLACK REFORM MOVEMENT FINALLY REACHES SAGINAW



The black revolution is moving courageously across the nation, Saginaw has been lingering behind for a long time. We, as a group of black citizens of Saginaw have formed an organigation for the purpose of improving the black community of the East Side and getting Saginaw to progress along with the rest of the nation. This non-profit organization has been named UNITED POWER.

The goals of this organization are similar to those of all black organizations, only different in scope. We are tired of the slow pace of the movement here in Saginaw. We feel that new methods are needed. The black community has never been united, therefore, it has lagged behind considerably. More militant actions are necessary to jolt this community into reality of the graveness of the racial situation here. Although our philosophy is in accord with other black organizations on the national plane, our efforts are concentrated mainly with the Negro citizens of Saginaw. Therefore, we shall strive to certain main objectives which will consist of:

(1) Eliminating racial discrimnation in our city. It is very evident of the nature of the racial situation in Saginaw. Most of Saginaw's 26,000 Negroes reside on the East side. They are forbidded residency on the West side. Negroes are further being squashed together on the East side by numerous highways or freeways (namely I-75) through Saginaw. This is discrimination. UP don't have the solutions to all of this city's problems, but we do plan to bring the truth to the Negro citizens and take future actions if necessary to eliminate this type of discrimination. (2) Improving the Negro community. Before Negroes on the East side can demand action from City Hall, we must help to make our own side of town a place of decency and respect. In essence, we must take action to better ourselves and our community. (3) In stilling pride into every black citizen in our community. For too long, Negroes have been brainwashed that everything white is good and that everything black is bad. Our own black brothers ridicule their African ancestry. This ridicule stems from hundreds of years of brainwashing. UP feels that this type of deterioration must cease and desist. African civilizations were long established before white civilizations. Ancient black history much to be reverred and proud of. Black history classes should be taught to all students in all schools. Only until we take pride in ourselves can we make a united stand against all of the evils of this society. (4) Creating economic power within our own community. No nation can be strong and effective without a solid foundation. This holds true for the black community in Saginaw, the Negro have depended on handouts from whites since the moment we were brought over from the African continent. Our own hard earned resources have slipped from our hands into the hands of those who have used it against us. This must cease also. Negroes must become economically independent. They must demand control of all institutions in their community, whether they be urban renewal projects or banks.

Our organization is governed by a nine-man Executive Board; all are Negro citizens of Saginaw who are fervently interested in improving Saginaw's black community. Membership is open to anyone interested in promoting and obtaining the before mentioned goals.

In the future, United Power will undoubtedly come under great criticism, but we will not let this deter us from our goals. We invite all other black organizations to work with us in order to present a united front in tackling Saginaw's problems. UP fully realizes that a divided community can be very ineffective, even disastrous. We do not intend to waste time arguing with our black counterparts. We will not condemn their efforts. Yet, on the other hand, we will not be discouraged by the "Spoils of the black community", the Uncle Toms and Aunt Janes. This organization hopes to leave its imprint on the Negro community and that imprint should be UNITED with POWER.

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NAME _____

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(PLEASE PRINT)

Community in Action..... Page 2
Down Front..... Page 3
Church News..... Page 4
Hotline..... Page 4
Teen Beat..... Page 4

READ THE AFRO-HERALD STAY INFORMED

COMMUNITY IN ACTION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Let us get this straight at the outset: We couldn't care less what "the man" feels, says, or thinks about us. We will exercise our rights as a free people-to speak for and define ourselves instead of always being spoken for by others.

Our main interest is black people-more specifically, grass-roots black people-people with no voice, no freedom, no means, less money and very little hope. We shall give them a voice, teach them freedom, give them a means to obtain and use wisely that very powerful money, and we will keep alive their hope. T.C., the truck driver; Sam, the shoeshine boy; Willie Mae, the welfare recipient; and John George Washington Abraham Lincoln Jones, the ex-slave who asks, "What's in a name"? will all have a voice in UP, for we are all a part of this community called UP.

We will be harsh at times, even overwhelming, but we will always be realistic, for we have an obsession with reality. And reality, as harsh as it has been, has been with us too long for us to desert it here, especially now that it promises to reveal to us the people and problems we must deal with successfully, if we are to survive.

Our motto is simple; right down to earth, in language that everybody can easily understand. It is "To Inform, Involve and Unite". We will never tear down that we cannot or will not rebuild, in different form and or substance. When we "inform", we will tell it just like it is--cause we care enough to tell it just like it is--nothing added nor subtracted--but just like it is. And when we involve, we will "force" you to be free, aware and responsible; perhaps even ashamed and very often proud; angry and active. And if we are to survive, we must unite together once and for all, the grass-roots, the black bourgeoisie, the professionals, the skilled and the unskilled to form a united black front. Only then can we hope to control our own destiny.

HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

United Power Organigation along with Delta College are sponsoring a Higher Education Program.

This program is open to all Negroes of Saginaw. Students who have completed high school and are financially unable to attend college this fall are now presented with the opportunity to do so. Students who have not completed high school and are between the ages of 17 thru 26 are also urged to sign up for this program.

The program is a two-fold on which offers the following: (1) College courses in whatever field one wishes to study, and (2) give one the opportunity to study for the G.E.D. Exam that will be given sometime during the fall semester. This will enable those who pass the exam to qualify for jobs that require high school diplomas, as well as requirement for entrance to most colleges.

Students will have the opportunity to attend classes either at Delta College or classes held at different locations in Northeast Saginaw. Courses will be the regular college courses offered at the college.

Those interested in the program must fill out an application, they are available at the United Power office, 111 S. 3rd Street.

There will be an open meeting for those interested and Delta Officials will be present to answer any questions concerning the program.

GET THE FACTS! READ THE AFRO HERALD

This page is for the benefit of organizations working in and for the community. If you have any organizational news you would like to have communicated, kindly forward it to the SAGINAW AFRO HERALD NEWS AGENCY, 111 S. 3rd St. Also send pictures of your organization so they can be placed on this page.

Down Front

This section is for the sound of soul in anyway as long as it is printable, readable and for the interest and information of our community.

DEDICATION: To The too many with too much. We keep telling white Americans to accept us as we are, so first we must show them exactly what we are."
Dorothy White, SNCC field worker quoted in Ebony, June, 1966.

THE NATURAL LOOK
(That people should be set apart as different does not mean that they will of necessity attempt to eliminate one another.)

Even today, right in America, the Japanese fully acknowledge their distinctness; but in so doing they find no cause for trying to eliminate St. Patrick's Day. Each to his own-but-as usual, the black man presents a very special case. He can't make a move in any direction He is a victim of constant scrutiny and appraisal by either his brothers, or by someone outside of the racial group. In terms of present discussion, most of the noise or criticism comes from within the black community. It should be mentioned that white people generally remain silent on the matter of blacks "going natural" because it represents no threat to them.

What is it that black people are saying to their brothers who have stopped getting haircuts and sisters who have started getting cuts? Well, the criticism runs all the way from "She sure looks bad" to "What is he trying to prove?" There has even been discussion over the fine point of the wrong kind of trim for a certain facial shape. Yet, even if a black woman is fortunate enough to avoid verbal daggers, someone is apt to make a point about her poor choice of earrings. I recently heard an objection to a large set of gold earrings because they would make the wearer look "too Ubangi". Imagine that! It is all right to hint at being of African ancestry, but don't carry the identification too far, sister.

Wigs seem to be losing some of their never deserved popularity. By definition, a wig is an artificial hairpiece; and yet, a black woman is subjected to less criticism and disdain if she puts on a front (on top) than if she rejects the latter and display her own natural beauty.

All the publicity and talk about the natural look gives us more evidence that black people are still confused about themselves. What could be more natural than the word Natural itself. Yet, the simple term has more interpretations and re-interpretations than does "Black Power".

It would be more meaningful to consider the natural look as a sincere (and significant) effort toward self-definition rather than a move ment or fad of the times. Only a fool could see it in anything less than its full implication.

Black people, by nature, look like black people. They son't look like like Indians or Chinese or Eskimos. Racial similarities do exist but there still remain "common traits" or distinct physical differences which make black people more like black people than they would resemble non-blacks. There is nothing especially important about this observation except that it is too often either overlooked or purposely debated. There are still those who cling to the idea of a brotherhood of mankind fostered by the evolution of the Physically Eclectic Man!!

It should be easy enough to both to understand and appreciate why any group of people would want to glorify its own difference.

The money argument against the bi-weekly torture to which so many black women condemn their hair is rationally a strong one. I won't go into detail on it here because women like men, are trapped by their own vanity which is sometimes misinterpreted as pride.

But there is no practical justification for the frying and tying of hair. And black people really are practical people.

In closing, I say to all those who have chosen the natural, "Bless you Sister". By the way, the natural is lived and not simply worn. To those who have either rejected it or are on the borderline of giving it a try, I loudly proclaim: "Sisters of the world, Unite!! You have nothing to lose but your Western confusion.

SKETCHES IN BLACK

The Beauty of Being Natural

Separate and apart from the political and socio-economic upheavals that are taking place in this country as a result of the Afroamericans quest for dignity and freedom, there is also a concomitant cultural revolution. Emerging is a new awakening desire on behalf of black people to redefine, interpret and develop self concepts, history, hopes and aspirations relative to their own frame of reference as opposed to the arbitrarily irrelevant standards of others. We must draw upon our own experiences (i.e. music, art, dance, song, folk lore, etc.) which will provide the basis of inspiration for meaningful attainment in the present. As a wise old Chinese sage once wrote "our forefathers planted trees in the past so that we might avail ourselves of the cool shade in the future." But before we can profit by what has been done in the past a new level of awareness must come into being. We must begin from the ouset to conceive and translate criterias of black beauty on our own unequivocal terms. We must begin from the outset to desist from wearing hairstyles and dress in a banal imitation of whites which is anato the tiger imitating the mule who is neither respected for strength nor known for intelligence. We must from the outset recognize and appreciate the rich cultural heritage which represent the efforts of countless blacks from the beginning of time, therby serving as a vehicle to rekindle the feeling of worth, greatness and value. This will be rendered possible only by reverting to what by most has been described as our soul force, that is to say, our ability to be as we are and not what we feel whites would like us to be... it means to sing, to dance, work, soul, cry and even... yes even fight when, where, and however we please; in a word, beauty of being natural.

"A people will never look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors".
Edmund Burke

COMING IN FUTURE ISSUES !!!

ANATOMY OF A RIOT !!
A detailed, chronological photo essay relating all factors involved in, and leading up to the recent civil disorders in our city.

PLUS MANY, MANY MORE HOT STORIES DEALING WITH THE ISSUES YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT!!!

THIS SPACE AND OTHER PAGES RESERVED FOR OUR ADVERTISERS

"HOT LINE"

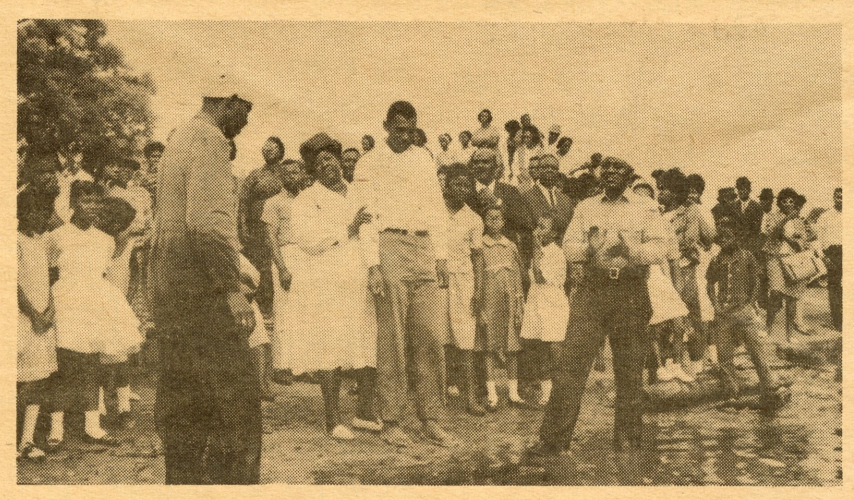
CHURCH NEWS

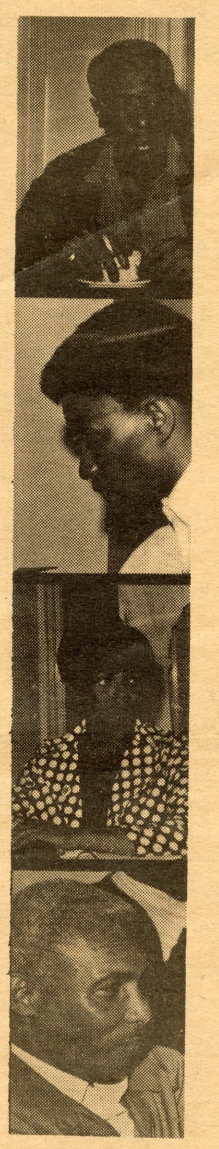
by BROTHER DAVE BEATTY

"GOING DOWN TO THE BIG BAPTIZING"!

Church News reporter followed the crowd Sunday afternoon to the annual baptismal service of Rev. Calvin Beatty and the congregation of the BEATTY TABERNACLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST-located at 819 Kirk St.

A crowd of about 300 people witnessed the annual event along the banks of the Saginaw River on the Bay City highway. Rev. Calvin Beatty was assisted by several local ministers and the deacons of his church.





"TEEN BEAT"

by "teen writer" CHARLES BACOTE

TEEN BEAT

Starting Wednesday at the Brockway Skating Rink, our Soul Brothers and Sisters will be going out to show their skating talent.

On Fridays there is the dance at Sacred Heart Church 6th and Cherry Sts. Here our brothers and sisters get together on the latest dances from the "Pearl to the "Social". From the "Fast Bop" to the "Shing-a-Ling". The dance takes place from 9:00p.m. to 1:00p.m., giving our sisters and brothers 4 hours of fun and relaxation.

There should be more dances similar to the one at Sacred Heart.

TENNESSEE'S "SOUL HOTLINE"

by WILLIAM A. BETTIS III

"TENNESSEE'S SOUL HOTLINE"

"HELLO THERE SOUL" I have for you the top "SOUL" sounds that are on my top ten of the week list. This column will be in each weeks edition keeping you informed on the latest sounds and the progress of our local "SOUL" groups, as well as the already successful soul entertainers. I hope all of you "SOUL BROTHERS and SISTERS" will keep in touch and let me know of any dances or social activities that will be taking place in our area. In an effort to keep you informed, I will have in each of the following issues, a feature story on some of our many successful "SOUL" entertainers.

WILLIAM A. BETTIS III
"TENNESSEE"

TOP TEN OF THE WEEK!!!!!!!!

1. COLD SWEAT.....James Brown
2. BABY I LOVE YOU.. Aretha Franklin
3. YOU'RE MY EVERYTHING-Temptations
4. I WAS MADE TO LOVE HER-Stevie Wonde
5. MORE LOVE.....MIRACLES
6. GROOVIN.....Booker T & MG's
7. MAKE ME YOURS.....Betty Swan
8. SWEETEST THING THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN.....Gladys Knight
9. I WANT TO TESTIFY... Parliaments
10. SOULFINGER..... Bar-Kays

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